THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR):(a) to (c) The Government has directed that steps should be taken to create an awareness amongst customers about the need for switching off cell phone while at retail outlets. Further, the oil marketing companies have been instructed to display warning notices apart from orienting field staff at the retail outlets for distributing suitable pamphlets to each vehicle entering the premises for a period of 30 days or so. A Press release was also made on 27th June, 2002 for the information of the Public at large.

Wait-listed LPG applicants

1450. SHRI K.P. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wait-listed LPG registrants in the country as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) the target fixed during the current financial year 2002-2003 for releasing new LPG connections;

(c) whether any time frame/road map has been prepared to liquidate the waiting list for gas connections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) At present, LPG connections are released on demand by the distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in all the markets throughout the country. The release of connections during the year 2002-03 would depend upon the market demand.

Freight equalisation scheme

1451. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil companies are considering a proposal to do away with the freight equalisation scheme and there will be

wide variation in the prices of petrol and diesel in inland town compared to coastal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In a free market scenario, the price of petrol and diesel would vary between coastal and inland locations. With a view to facilitate a smooth transition from the APM (Administered Pricing Mechanism) era to a free market scenario, the public sector of companies are presently equalizing the freight cost upto depots in the price build up of petrol and diesel.

New oil platforms in Mumbai

1452. DR. N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has a plant to instal about 14 new well head platforms in Mumbai as a part of its massive programme of development of oil fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ONGC used to place orders on Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam and it has delivered 11 wellhead platforms earlier to ONGC but no new orders were placed on HSL since 1989;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government will prevail upon the ONGC to place orders on HSL for a few platforms on nomination basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As part of its approve OIR schemes, 20 new well head platforms have been planned by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) to be installed in Mumbai Offshore comprising Heera, South Heera, Mumbai High North and Mumbai High South fields, from the year 2002 till 2006;